

## GOVERNOR ENGLER SIGNS LIBRARY PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENT

Governor John Engler signed House Bill 4146, entitled "An act to provide for the confidentiality of certain library records; and to provide for the selection and use of library materials," on February 6, 1998, which amends Section 2 of the Library Privacy Act (PA 455 of 1982) to protect the names, addresses and telephone numbers of library users. The law went into immediate effect. Librarians may continue to use their records to inquire about overdue materials, but the public will not be able to obtain library patron records through the Freedom of Information Act.

This law covers nearly all types of libraries, not just public libraries. As defined by the amendment, a library includes one that is "established by the state; a county, city, township, village, school district or other local unit of government or authority or combination of local units of governments and authorities; a community college district; a college or university; or any private library open to the public." What library records are

protected by this law? Any "document, record, or other method of storing information retained by a library that contains information that personally identifies a library patron, including the patron's name, address or telephone number, or that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials from a library. The library record does not include nonidentifying material that may be retained for the purpose of studying or evaluating the circulation of library materials in general."

Earlier, in December 1997, Governor Engler signed another public act (PA 196 of 1997 (SB 664)), which makes substantial changes in the act regulating the investment of surplus funds by units of local government. The amendment went into immediate effect and provides local units of government more flexibility in their investment options by permitting investment in additional United States obligations. This permits the purchase of investment grade obligations of state and local governments and

removes the current limitation to 50 percent of the investment portfolio for commercial paper. The amendment provides for consistency by requiring that repurchase agreements consist only of those obligations legal for direct investment.

Local units of government, which includes in its definition an authority such as a district library, are required to have in place an investment policy within 180 days of the effective date of the act. The policy must be approved by the governing body of the authority. Local units of government have some options within the requirements of the act. Failure to approve a policy to govern investment of surplus funds will result in substantial restrictions in the types of investments which are allowed.

The text of Public Act 196 of 1997 (SB 664) is available through the Michigan Legislature website at [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org) or from Ellen Richardson at 517-373-1299

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## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARDS NEWBERY, CALDECOTT MEDALS

Karen Hesse, author of *Out of the Dust* and Paul O. Zelinsky, illustrator of *Rapunzel*, are the 1998 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott medals, the most prestigious awards in children's literature. They were among the award winners announced in January by the American Library Association (ALA) during its 1998 Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans. Considered the Academy Awards of children's book publishing, the Newbery and Caldecott medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year.

*Out of the Dust*, published by Scholastic Press, tells the story of fourteen-year-old Billie Jo, who relates how her mother dies after an accident with burning kerosene. Ellen Fader, chair of the Newbery committee, said, "[Karen] Hesse's painstaking first-person narration of Billie Jo's withering and finally taking root is spare and gritty."

Zelinsky, in *Rapunzel*, published by Dutton Children's Books, retells the familiar story based on the Grimm Brothers' folktale. Caldecott Committee Chair John Stewig describes Zelinsky's work as "richly detailed oil paintings that convey dramatic emotions and feature distinctive architecture, lush landscapes and authentic costuming of renaissance Italy. Classically beautiful illustrations portray this complex love story which can be appreciated on many levels by all ages."

Three Newbery Honor Books were named: *Lily's Crossing* by Patricia Reilly Giff; *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine and *Winger* by Jerry Spinelli. Three Caldecott Honor Books were named: Christopher Myers for *Harlem*, written by Walter Dean Myers; David Small for *The Gardener*, written by Sarah Stewart; and Simms Taback for *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*.

## VOICES FROM THE DUST BOWL, ONLINE

The American Folklife Center and the National Digital Library Program at the Library of Congress released its online presentation, *Voices from the Dust Bowl: The Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection* in January 1998. This multiformat, ethnographic field collection from the American Folklife Center's Archive of Folk Culture has just been made available through the National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress ([lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tshome.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tshome.html)). The collection documents the daily life of Farm Security Administration (FSA) migrant work-camp residents in central California in 1940 and 1941. Included are audio recordings, photographs, manuscript materials, publications, and ephemera generated during two separate documentation trips taken by Todd and Sonkin.

Viewers may also enjoy *Today in History*, accessible through the Library of Congress's main homepage ([lcweb.loc.gov/](http://lcweb.loc.gov/)). The entry uses the fiddle tune "Eighth of January" as represented in *Voices from the Dust Bowl*.

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## LOLETA FYAN AWARDS

Two Loleta Fyan Continuing Education Awards were drawn at the Library of Michigan Foundation board meeting on January 9, 1998. The first award of \$1,500 was given to Norma Brown, director of the Merrill District Library in Merrill, Michigan. The second, also in the amount of \$1,500, was received by Susan Hanson, director of the Harbor Beach District Library. The Loleta Fyan Award was created for the "encouragement of library personnel to broaden their knowledge through study or travel." The awards help individuals attend either the Public Library Association National Conference or the American Library Association Annual Conference. The awards help cover airfare, lodging, meals, registration fees and any miscellaneous expenses involved with attendance at the conference. For more information about the Loleta Fyan Continuing Education Awards, contact the Library of Michigan at P. O. Box 30007, Lansing, Michigan 48909 or visit the web site at [www.libofmich.lib.mi.us](http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us).

## CHANGES IN FEES AT THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

The Library of Michigan is changing its fee schedule for microform and most database printing. The Law Library's special document delivery service charges are being adjusted as well. These changes offer consistency in the charges and meet cost recovery requirements.

The per-page charge for copying microforms has been reduced to \$.10 per page. A \$.10 per-page charge will also be incurred for printouts from the computer workstations that access the CD network, the Internet, FirstSearch and SearchBank. Prints from ANSWER, the library's online catalog, remain free.

The Law Library's document delivery fees will go into effect on April 1. Document delivery by mail will be \$14.00 for the first 50 pages and \$5.00 per item for each 50 pages thereafter. Document delivery by FAX will be the same as the fee above plus an additional \$1.00 per page.

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## THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND CHALLENGED IN CONGRESS

The Universal Service Fund has been challenged during the last few months as it gears up to deliver 2.25 billion dollars in discounts for schools and libraries seeking telecommunications services. Senator John McCain (R.-Arizona) promised to introduce legislation to mandate that schools and libraries applying for Universal Service Fund discounts be required to filter out indecent Internet sites. Although McCain's draft legislation has yet to be introduced, the Commerce Committee held hearings on how to address Internet pornography and indecent online material on February 10.

Several key members of Congress expressed strong disapproval of the FCC's universal service plan for schools and libraries, and asked the Government Accounting Office to assess the proposal. Senators Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Senate Appropriations Committee chair and a key member of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Conrad Burns (R-Montana), chair of the Senate Commerce Communications Subcommittee, and Representative Tom Bliley (R-Virginia), chair of the House Commerce Committee, raised questions about creating separate corporations to run the school, library and rural health programs and the administrative process established to run the programs.

At the same time, a separate controversy emerged over the formula for charging long distance companies for their contributions to the fund. The FCC is expected to delay contributions to the fund for thirty days while Congress, the FCC and the industry negotiate. One key question is whether industry costs may be passed along to the consumer and if so, how such charges will be identified on customers' bills. Long-distance carriers are threatening to pass along all costs and to specifically identify the schools and libraries program as the source for the charge. Congressional leaders opposed such a move, arguing that consumers were never intended to pay for universal service for schools and libraries.

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## STATE MASTER CONTRACT UPDATE

The State of Michigan Office of Purchasing has extended its master contract with Data Systems Network Corporation until September 30, 1998. You may recall that the original expiration date was February 5, 1998. Under the USF definitions for existing contracts, because this extension was completed prior to 5:00 a.m. on January 30, it will constitute an existing contract through September 30. Libraries are allowed to use the state contract prices when ordering services through the USF rebate program.

Following is the contract number and execution date that you need for your USF application forms if you wish to use this existing contract:  
Contract #: 071B6000907

Date Signed: 9/30/96

This contract covers Local Area Network hardware and software, including network servers and server options, network hardware, network operating systems, network management software, Internet firewall software and other computer-related materials.

## UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND—WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Schools and Libraries Corporation web site became active on January 30, 1998. The web site can accommodate 1,000 simultaneous users. This marks the program's official beginning and also activates the 75-day, equal-opportunity window period. During this time, libraries may submit their applications for services to SLC electronically via the web site or by mail to the Schools and Libraries Corporation, P. O. Box 4217, Iowa City, IA 52244-4217.

The 75-day, equal-opportunity window is an important part of the contract process. During this period libraries must submit Form 470 either by mail or electronically, post their applications on the web site for 28 days, consider bids, negotiate a contract or contracts with a withdrawal clause if they do not receive discounts, file Form 471 and request their discounts. Libraries must complete all of these steps in a relatively short time.

What if your library isn't ready? Why go to all the work? Is it worth it? Yes, according to State Librarian George Needham. "The Universal Service Fund has the potential to make major improvements in the way Michigan's libraries do business. It can lower some of the barriers created by telecommunications costs, and can inspire greater cooperation and improved communications among our institutions. I know the process creates a great deal of work for the libraries, but the alternative is taking even more time to find another funding source to cover these costs in an era of cut rate government."

Michigan expects to submit between 2,500 and 5,000 applications. Dollar figures for discounts are unavailable at this time but the Michigan Information Network has negotiated a state contract for many of the eligible services that will reduce technology costs for schools

and libraries by \$10 million. Universal Service Fund discounts are applied in addition to those savings. Other organizations, such as the Merit Network and the Michigan Department of Education, are working with the Library of Michigan to educate vendors about the USF program's merits and procedures in order to help libraries gain the best possible prices for the services they require. These agencies have already participated in training sessions and a teleconference. Many local organizations are helping to educate school and library communities on how to apply for these discounts. Many Michiganders are working hard to ensure this program's success. A landslide of applications will help prove the need for USF discounts in Michigan.

Patricia Curthoys

*Electronic Library Development Specialist*

### LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN LSTA PROGRAM

In December 1997 the Library of Michigan received its first federal allotment of funds for the new LSTA program. The LSTA team rolled out this program in January 1998 with a series of grant writing workshops. The new LSTA program was designed by the Library of Michigan according to LSTA specifications and with the guidance from the LSTA Advisory Council and participants in 16 forums held statewide. The program is administered at the federal level by the newly created Institute of Museum and Library Services. LSTA replaces the former LSCA program. It is not a reauthorization of funds, but a whole new competitive program that focuses on technology and multitype cooperation among libraries. The program no longer features a construction component. Service to persons with difficulty using libraries remains as a federal area of interest.

Because of this multitype focus, LSTA is open to all libraries, including public, public-school, academic, research and private libraries. Multitype cooperation is defined as library networking and cooperation among public libraries, library cooperatives, K-12 school libraries and media centers, regional educational media centers (REMCs) and other networking centers, two- and four-year academic libraries and special libraries that participate in interlibrary loan. What drives the new program is collaboration among libraries.

The LSTA program is divided into three areas: statewide projects, subgrant projects dedicated to a specific area of statewide interest and competitive subgrant programs.

### STATEWIDE PROJECTS

Statewide projects include Access Michigan, Serials Periodicals and Newspapers (SPAN) database and the Michigan Electronic Library (MEL). These projects were created in response to requests for more resources with less paperwork that arose during the 1996 LSTA forums held around the state. These widely publicized forums were open to everyone because the Library of Michigan staff wanted to receive the broadest possible input before designing the new LSTA program.

### ACCESS MICHIGAN

Access Michigan is a digital library that will allow Michigan residents access to leading commercial information resources with no fee when used through a Michigan library. By using the Internet and the World Wide Web to link libraries to these online locations, libraries will improve their service and offer their patrons content once not easily available. The first objective for AccessMichigan was to provide a basic set of information resources to every library in the state, regardless of size or type. Through start-up funding provided by LSTA, the Library of Michigan has worked with



the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) and the Information Access Company to provide libraries with unlimited online access to current events, medical, marketing, investment, consumer and other types of information. These databases have received over 1.7 million hits to date.

## SPAN

The project called Serials Periodicals and Newspapers (SPAN) is a web-accessible database of magazines, journals, periodicals and newspapers found in libraries throughout Michigan. SPAN may be searched at no cost by both library staff and the public to locate volumes, issues, numbers and years for journals, newspapers, and periodicals held throughout Michigan. Library staff use SPAN to locate serial holdings of other libraries to fill interlibrary loan requests. Patrons may search SPAN to initiate interlibrary loan requests for articles found in magazines, journals, newspapers and periodicals. This online directory helps identify Michigan locations quickly.

## MEL

The Michigan Electronic Library (MEL) is a collaborative effort to provide carefully selected and reliable basic information for all citizens of the state. Since 1992, the University of Michigan, through its MLink program, has provided an electronic library of resources. In 1995 the Library of Michigan joined with MLink and Merit, Inc. to merge these resources with an Internet access program to serve all Michigan libraries and residents via the Statewide MichNet dial-in network. The resulting MEL project has three primary goals:

- To provide a library of electronic information resources, selected by librarians that focuses on local, state and federal government information;

- To provide no-charge access via existing telecommunications networks to as many of the state's libraries and residents as possible;
- To provide a backbone of electronic information resources that will allow Michigan's libraries to focus on developing local community information resources; in electronic form, to be made available through MEL.

## SUBGRANT PROJECTS DEDICATED TO A SPECIFIC AREA OF STATEWIDE INTEREST

These projects support service to specific areas designated under LSTA. Funding is provided for the "Internet Access Grant" program, Regions Of Cooperation, and Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The Internet Access Grant is designed to place technology into libraries with no other alternatives for Internet access. In this way LM hopes to help smaller, technology deficient libraries keep pace with electronic access to information.

Regions of Cooperation (ROCs) and Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPHs) "increase equity of information access by providing special assistance to areas of the state where services are inadequate (underserved rural and urban communities), and to libraries that are working to provide services to persons having difficulty using a library."

Regions of Cooperation are multitype organizations of libraries based on one or more of the public library cooperatives. ROCs were formed in 1980 to provide a structure for all types of libraries to cooperate in sharing resources at the local, regional and state levels with help from federal funds.

Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provide services to Michigan residents who cannot see or read regular print due to a physical disability and are eligible to receive

free reading materials from a statewide network of libraries.

## LSTA COMPETITIVE SUBGRANT PROGRAMS

Competitive subgrant programs provide funding for individual projects at the local level. Funding areas for this section of the LSTA program were developed based on the guidelines and areas of emphasis stated in the Library Services and Technology Act. Applications for these competitive subgrants are due at 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 1998.

More information on the Library of Michigan's LSTA program may be found at [www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/lsta/lstasubgrantprog.html](http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/lsta/lstasubgrantprog.html) or by contacting the following LSTA team members:

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### LSTA WORKSHOPS UPDATE

During January, the Library of Michigan LSTA team presented 25 grant-writing workshops around the state to help staff from all types of eligible libraries to better understand the new LSTA program and improve their grant-writing skills. Three hundred and forty four people registered for the workshops.

Questions asked during the workshops are being compiled and will be posted on the Library of Michigan's LSTA web site ([www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/lsta/lstaprog.html](http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/lsta/lstaprog.html)). Copies of all the workshop materials and program information are also available. A listserv has been created for further information about the LSTA program. To subscribe, send the message "subscribe lsta" to [majordomo@listserv.libofmich.lib.mi.us](mailto:majordomo@listserv.libofmich.lib.mi.us).

A videotape of the workshop was also created for distribution to all library cooperatives around the state. If you were unable to attend one of the workshops, please contact your nearest library cooperative to arrange to borrow this videotape.

### UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM

*Schools and libraries may apply for discount prices for telephone and other communication services. If approved, a 20 to 90% discount is taken off the cost to the school or library, with the vendor reimbursed from the federal Universal Service Fund. (The discount rate depends on economic need and location.)*

## FCC ISSUES FOURTH ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued its fourth Order on Reconsideration regarding the Universal Service Fund in late December. This long-awaited order addresses many of the questions that libraries and schools raised about the program. The document may be downloaded from the FCC website at [www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal\\_service/](http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal_service/)

### TECHNOLOGY PLAN AND REVIEW

The order offers some clarification on a number of issues surrounding technology plans and review. An approved technology plan is still required because the FCC believes it is in the "public interest" (Para. 148).

Approval of technology plans may be made prior to either the procedures of the appropriate state agency or the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC), provided that approval from the SLC does not circumvent state or local laws (Para. 157). The FCC also recognizes that the SLC will be structuring a plan approval process.

### ELIGIBLE SERVICES

The FCC decided that discounts would not cover internal connections in non-instructional school and library administrative buildings unless the internal connections proved necessary to deliver services to an instructional building or library (Para. 209-210). The order did not address whether Internet and telecommunications services delivered to these facilities were eligible.

Internal connections are defined as "connections between or among multiple instructional buildings that comprise a single school campus or multiple non-administrative build-

ings that comprise a single library branch, but do not include connections that extend beyond that single school campus or library branch" (Para. 210).

### WIDE AREA NETWORKS

The order states that wide-area networks built and purchased by libraries and schools are ineligible for discounts because they are not "telecommunications services" (Para. 193). This does not preclude schools and libraries from receiving universal service discounts on a WAN run over leased lines since such an arrangement constitutes a telecommunications service.

### STATE NETWORKS

The order further clarifies the state networks' eligibility to receive discounts. For telecommunications services, a state network may only receive discounts in the same fashion that a consortium receives discounts. It may apply on behalf of the schools and libraries, but cannot receive reimbursement directly from the universal service fund because state networks are not telecommunications service providers (Para.183). However, for Internet access and internal connections, a state network may either secure discounts on the purchase of such services or may receive direct reimbursement from the universal service fund, since the state network can be a non-telecommunications provider of Internet access and internal connections services (Para.190).

### AGGREGATION: DEFINING SHARED AND SITE-SPECIFIC SERVICES

The order specified that for services used only by a single school or library an individual discount should be used (Para. 205). The FCC did not specify a mechanism for how libraries and schools to calculate a discount for "shared" services, although it expects guidance will come from the Schools and Libraries Corporation. Consortia must certify that each individual institution listed

as a member of the consortium and included in determining the discount rate will receive a proportionate amount of shared services within each year in which the institution is used to calculate the aggregate discount rate (Para. 206). (Shared services are defined as “those [services] that cannot, without substantial difficulty, be identified with particular users or be allocated directly to particular entities” Para. 206)

### GRANDFATHERING CONTRACTS

The order initiated a number of changes to the rules regarding “pre-existing” contracts, including the “grandfathering” date for contracts. Under the new rules, all contracts *signed on or before July 10, 1997* will be exempted from the competitive bidding requirement for the entire duration of the contract. Services provided under contracts signed after July 10, 1997, but before the SLC web site became operational (and began accepting applications) will be eligible for discounts only for the period in which the discounts first applied through December 31, 1998. All contracts signed after the web site became operational and began accepting applications on *January 30, 1998* are not eligible for support unless the applicant has completed the SLC competitive bidding process (Para. 217).

### MASTER CONTRACTS

A number of issues surrounding master contracts were also clarified. First, the same grandfathering rules that apply to the eligibility of normal contracts apply to master contracts (Para. 233). Services provided under master contracts signed on or prior to July 10, 1997 will be eligible for discounts and exemption from the SLC’s competitive bidding requirements for the duration of the contract. Services provided under master contracts signed after July 10, 1997, but before the SLC web site became available, will be eligible for dis-

counts for the period in which the discounts first apply through December 31, 1998 (Para. 218). Second, the operative date for determining master contract eligibility is the date that the master contract was signed, not the date that the eligible school or library signed a service agreement with the service provider (Para. 234). Finally, the competitive bidding requirement may be satisfied by either the entity signing the master contract or by the applicant (Para. 233). If a master contract does not qualify as a “pre-existing” contract and was not subject to the SLC’s competitive bidding process, an applicant must engage in the SLC competitive bidding process before signing on to the master contract.

### MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO CONTRACTS

Finally, the order specifies that for “minor modifications” to existing contracts, libraries and schools will not be required to rebid the contract (Para. 224). The definition of “minor modifications” will be determined by state law or, if there is no applicable state definition, by the cardinal change doctrine (Para. 226-8). Regardless of the definition used, applicants will be required to file a new Form 471 in order to make a minor modification (Para. 229).

## OTHER ISSUES

### COSTS COVERED

The order states that the discounts apply to “all reasonable charges, including federal and state taxes, that are incurred by obtaining an eligible telecommunications services. Charges for termination liability, penalty surcharges, and other charges not included in the cost of obtaining the eligible service will not be covered” (Para. 243).

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

The FCC ruled that schools, libraries, colleges, universities and

health care providers that are selling telecommunications services will not be required to contribute to the fund (Para. 284). However, remember that services purchased with universal service funds may not be resold.

### STATE DISCOUNTS AND THE FEDERAL FUND

The federal universal service discounts will be applied to the price of services “prior to the application of any state-provided support for schools or libraries” (Para. 196).

## MERIT/MiCTA MASTER CONTRACT EXTENDED

On January 26, 1998 the two state academic telecommunications non-profits, Merit and MiCTA, signed an agreement to extend the existing group pricing agreement (aka master contract) through the end of 1998. The agreement originally covered the period from January 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. The extension will make things easier for schools and libraries applying for Universal Service Fund discounts since the revised agreement no longer expires in the middle of a USF funding year.

Because this agreement was signed before the Schools and Libraries web site began accepting applications, this is a “preexisting contract” and buyers need not bid again. MiCTA-member schools and libraries may enter into new agreements or request upgrades to existing services from Merit under this master contract without going out for bids until 1999. The dates for the agreement (needed for the USF forms) must be signed by January 26, 1998 and expire on December 31, 1998.

Any questions about this agreement may be directed to Jeff Ogden at Merit. (Jogden@merit.edu)

## NEW ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR APPOINTED



Scott Norris has been appointed as the Library of Michigan's adaptive technology coordinator. Scott's experience with adaptive technology began in the early 1990s during his law school days. His Toshiba laptop provided him the opportunity to take notes in class, quickly review them and share information with other students. It was his work on a master of library science (MLS) at Wayne State University in Detroit, however, that brought him in direct contact with the huge information resources available at libraries.

Scott has a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee and a juris doctor from Thomas Cooley Law School here in Lansing, Michigan. He continues to work on an MLS from Wayne State University. At the Library of Michigan Scott will assist in acquiring and reviewing adaptive technology products used to access library resources, provide training to patrons and staff and offer assistance to all types of libraries interested in acquiring adaptive technology.

In 1994, during a speech at the American Council of the Blind's (ACB) national convention, President Carl Augusto pointed out, "Windows 95, the world's most popular operating system, relies on graphics that are difficult and sometimes impossible to transform for voice or Braille playback. The same is true of Netscape, one of the most popular ways to access the Internet." Four years later, Scott Norris states, "Adaptive technology has come a long way in the last few years and is the key for individuals with disabilities to unlock the door to the wealth of information offered by libraries."

## NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER JOINS LM STAFF

The Library of Michigan welcomes Carey L. Draeger as the new public information officer. Carey's journey to her new office was a short one—her previous position was as an assistant editor with *Michigan History Magazine*, part of the Michigan Historical Center, which is housed in the same building as the Library of Michigan. "I've been familiar with the Library of Michigan and many of its services for a long time," she says with a smile. "You could always find me examining microfilms of turn-of-the-century Michigan newspapers or checking out a book from the Michigan collection for an article I was working on for the magazine."

Originally from Chicago, Carey came to Michigan in 1981 to complete her bachelor of arts degree in humanities from Michigan State University and work towards a master's degree in creative writing. She has been a writer for most of her life. The achievement Carey is proudest of is an article that appeared in *Michigan History Magazine*'s March/April 1997 issue about Michigan survivors of the *Titanic*. "It was something no one had ever done before," she says. Carey is active in CARE, a volunteer program that works with the Lansing Police Department to help victims of domestic violence. She also does free-lance writing for local publications in her free time.

As the public information officer, Carey is responsible for developing public relations programs to familiarize the general public with the Library of Michigan and its many services. She plans to work with local, state and national media to "get the word out about the exciting programs and events we're developing with help from libraries around the state." Her responsibilities also include overseeing production of the many publications created by the Library of Michigan.

## ACCESSMICHIGAN WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

On February 2, 1998, the new AccessMichigan website at [www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/](http://www.accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/) officially opened to librarians and residents across the state. Now the latest information about the AccessMichigan project, from minutes of committee meetings to updates about the projects to links to information providers, are available at the click of a computer mouse.

"AccessMichigan has been a shot in the arm for Michigan libraries," says State Librarian George Needham. "Many libraries are now able to offer their patrons access to information formerly unavailable to

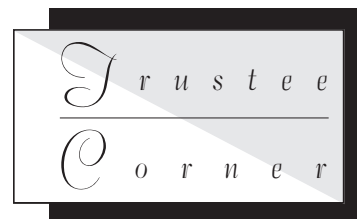
them. This information is high quality and easy to reach."

Other information sources available through this website include a wide variety of databases on current events, education, psychology, business and many other subjects. Librarians also have the option of subscribing to the AccessMichigan electronic mailing list, sending email messages to any of the steering committee members or providing them with private feedback. All of these services are offered free of charge through a Library Services and Technology grant from the Library of Michigan.



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## AMENDMENT TO DISTRICT LIBRARY ESTABLISHMENT ACT



As reported in the previous issue of *Access*, the District Library Establishment Act, PA 24 of 1989, has been amended by the enactment of PA 160 of 1997. The amendment addresses several concerns that developed as libraries and communities worked with the law over the last nine years.

In many communities school districts and public libraries have been allies in providing services to area residents. As communities discuss the possible formation of a district library, the school district is often the logical partner in the establishment. In fact, twenty five district libraries in Michigan include at least one school district as a participating municipality. Unlike other municipal units, which were allowed under certain conditions to encompass only a portion of their territory within a proposed district library, school districts wishing to participate in a district library agreement were required to use the entire school district. This often led to either overlapping legal boundaries with other libraries or to frustrating a plan to form a district library.

The necessary creation of an overlapping legal service area caused a number of problems. If district libraries' boundaries overlapped, the residents of the territory within both district libraries were subject to two millages to support the libraries. Legal access to services of both libraries did not soften the impact of double taxation. The same result was possible if a district library overlapped the legal service area of a city, village or township library. The overlapping areas also led to confusion on election day as people attempted to sort out where to vote for which library millage or election of board members.

PA 160 of 1997 provides solutions for these situations: 1) School districts may now exclude part of their territories when drawing the district library boundaries if the school district extends into the legal service area of other legally established public libraries. 2) District libraries that overlap with other district libraries are mandated to redraw their boundaries by October 1, 1998, in order to eliminate the overlap. 3) Future overlaps between district libraries are forbidden. 4) District libraries whose boundaries overlap with other public libraries are given the opportunity to eliminate the overlaps. In order to clarify the boundaries of district libraries, the act now requires new or amended district libraries to submit a map to the State Librarian when a district library agreement is submitted for approval.

Presently 119 district libraries exist in the state of Michigan; only a handful of those district libraries have legal service areas that overlap with another district library. Those libraries must now eliminate that overlap. The State Librarian has sent each of the affected libraries a letter explaining the overlap and offering assistance from the Library of Michigan staff to address the requirements of the law. The affected libraries may negotiate the boundary adjustments with their neighboring district libraries. The Legislative Council will not take any action to redraw the boundaries unless the district libraries do not take appropriate action by the October 1 deadline. The law does not give the Legislative Council discretion to redraw the boundaries—the boundaries of the first established district library will prevail.

If a district library has not received a letter from the State Librarian in regard to PA 160 of 1997, that library does not have an overlapping boundary with any other legally established public library. If there are questions about the requirements of the amendments, contact Ellen Richardson, library law specialist, at 517-373-1299.

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## ENGLER PLANS MILLIONS TO GET SCHOOLS ONLINE

On February 4, 1998, Governor John Engler electronically sent lawmakers a \$30-million plan to make sure Michigan students and workers have access to the Internet and other computer technology. The goal of this plan is to make Michigan the "information state," Engler noted in a draft of his *Message on Education and Technology*. "If we take these steps, Michigan minds will power the twenty-first century, just as our hands did in the twentieth century by putting America on wheels," Engler said.

Money for the three-year plan would be tapped from the Renaissance Fund, an account set aside for economic development. Engler's plan includes

- One hundred grants of \$100,000 each this year and next year to schools, libraries and other community centers to expand the availability of computers to students and others;
- Two hundred grants of up to \$10,000 each to teachers who find creative ways to use computers in the classroom;
- Creation of a Michigan Virtual University to make up-to-date job training courses available to businesses via computer.
- Money will also be provided for start-up costs and for technology based course development projects with Michigan colleges. The program is expected to be running later this year.

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## TAX SAVING TIPS FROM THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION

Tax time is upon us. Perhaps you are one of those who plans ahead, gathering your information and filing your taxes before April 15. Maybe you prefer to put it off until the last minute. Just as planning ahead eases your income tax preparation, so does writing a will—it saves you time and insures that as much as possible of your estate goes to your heirs instead of Uncle Sam.

Preparing a will does not have to be a cumbersome process. Many individuals, however, shy away from wills simply because they don't understand the process involved. Part of the mystery surrounding this document comes from the terminology used. Words like "devisee" and "intestacy" confuse the average person; to attorneys and to the courts, these terms convey the finer points of civil law.

The Library of Michigan Foundation wants to unravel some of the knottier complexities of will writing and provide a basic introduction to terminology, guidelines and procedures. The foundation's newsletter, *Options*, is designed to prepare you for your first meeting with your attorney. If you already have a will the newsletter may offer some new ideas to consider when you next review or update your will.

The foundation also offers a booklet, *Gathering Information for Your Will*. This comprehensive publication not only helps you collect information your attorney needs to prepare your will, but also gives you a place to record it. This will save you time and attorney's fees and help you cover all the bases in protecting your estate from unnecessary taxes. For a copy of this helpful brochure, contact Jacqueline Payne, Executive Director, Library of Michigan Foundation, P.O. Box 30159, Lansing, MI 48909 or call 517-373-1297, email [jpayne@libofmich.lib.mi.us](mailto:jpayne@libofmich.lib.mi.us).

Jacqueline Payne  
Executive Director

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## PROJECT VOTE SMART SEEKS PARTNERS FOR PILOT PROGRAM

Project Vote Smart recently launched an election-year pilot program with public libraries around the country that will provide their patrons with unbiased information systems and free publications about candidates and elected officials.

Supported by a generous grant from the Carnegie Foundation, this funding enables Project Vote Smart to provide libraries with a wealth of free information, including the voting records, issue positions, performance evaluations, campaign finances and biographies on over 13,000 candidates and elected officials as well as information on voter registration and political issues.

Libraries can partner with Project Vote Smart either as a participating or sponsoring library. Partnering libraries will be provided with special research services over the Vote Smart Website and the Voter's Research Hotline, copies of all of the publications Project Vote Smart distributes to political journalists and the public to be

catalogued into their reference collections, and copies of the "Road to Democracy" poster outlining the free Project Vote Smart/Library services that are available to library patrons.

Sponsoring libraries receive all of these services plus have the opportunity to host Project Vote Smart On the Road for a two-day period. This staffed traveling exhibit is a unique interactive journey tracing the road to democracy, from the patriotic voices of our founding fathers and mothers in 1776 to the public's cry for truth from harmful rhetoric in the 1990s.

Libraries interested in participating in this pilot program or those with questions should contact Whitney Wilcox, Project Vote Smart's library service director, at 541-754-2746 or email [libraries@vote-smart.org](mailto:libraries@vote-smart.org). For more information about Project Vote Smart, visit the website at [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org) or call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-622-SMART.

◆◆◆◆ After voters disapproved a millage question on November 4, 1997, the Monroe County Library System staff and library board began revising the budget in December. The 1998 budget is complicated by the library's need to fund urgent repairs and improvements to the Ellis Reference and Information Center. The Ellis building is the only facility owned by the library system; repairs were planned for the expected funding from the proposed millage. Several library board meetings were scheduled in December to develop a new plan for the building and a revised 1998 budget.

◆◆◆◆ The first stage of the planned expansion of Holland's Herrick District Library began in December when the library's collection was moved to a temporary location in the Holiday Plaza shopping center. The expansion and renovation project will take 18 months, with a 1999 completion date. The library's plans also include construction of a new branch on the city's north side. Voters in Holland and the townships of Park and Laketown approved a millage for the \$11.5 million project in May 1997. The library closed for two weeks in early December to move to the temporary location. The interim site will also allow the staff to test plans for a new internal arrangement in the expanded permanent facility. The Davenport College Business Library in Holland extended its services to the public from December 1 through 17, during the city library move.

◆◆◆◆ The Richfield Township Public Library is making steady progress toward the spring 1998 startup of construction of an addition to the library facility. The Richfield Township Board voted on November 18, 1997, to approve a contract for electrical work necessary before construction begins.

◆◆◆◆ Leighton township residents joined the staff and trustees of the Leighton Township Library for a groundbreaking ceremony in the township in November. Currently, residents of the township receive service through the library in Moline, in neighboring Dorr Township, so they are eager for the construction of the new library to commence. The new library will have 6,004 square feet of space to replace the current 1,850 square foot facility. Completion of the \$527,900 project is scheduled for May.

◆◆◆◆ At their November 1997 meeting the Branch District Library System board gave final approval to a new policy that calls for the library to use a collection agency to encourage borrowers with overdue materials to return them. The cost of the added collection service will be charged to the delinquent borrower. The collection service will not be used until the traditional notice and reminders from the library have failed to secure the return of the materials.

◆◆◆◆ The East Lansing Public Library began part two of its four-phase major renovation project early in December.

The library was closed for two days as collections were rearranged. Over twenty volunteers helped move 30,000 books and 1,100 shelves to other parts of the building. During the \$2 million project, the library will add a new children's reading room near the front of the building and reorganize the rest of the collection. Voters approved a bond issue in 1995 to fund the work, which is the library's first renovation in over 20 years. The first stage of the work provided new heating and cooling systems for the library. Stages three and four will introduce a cozy new reading area with a gas fireplace, more computer desks and updated library technology. The library building will be 2,300 square feet larger when the expansion and renovation work are completed in 1998. To support this project, the Friends of the East Lansing Public Library donated \$40,000 for new furnishings in the library.

◆◆◆◆ An early April groundbreaking is the goal of Frankenmuth library director Dave Curtis and the trustees of the James Wickson Memorial Library in that city. The library board met in November to review bids for the first phase of a new construction project. The first cost estimates for the 6,300-square-foot addition and renovation were based on a complete shutdown of the library during demolition and renovation work. After experiencing a months-long emergency closing in 1996, the director and board revised the plan to keep the current



library open during the expansion project. The public library building in Frankenmuth was severely damaged by a tornado in June 1996. No library service was available until repairs were completed in September 1996. Fundraising for the public library expansion continued in 1997—over \$513,000 of a \$715,000 target was committed by the end of November. If the first phase of the expansion begins in April, the proposed addition could be finished by the end of the year. A larger library addition, in the form of a three-story structure that would increase book capacity by 50 percent and provide a multi-purpose room for meetings and programs, is also being planned for 8 to 10 years after the first addition is completed.

## ***WILLS: The Way To Have Things Done Your Way***

Everyone needs a Will. It's a simple fact. But, like many other Americans, you may have put off having a Will prepared. For any number of reasons.

Preparing a Will is not a very complicated procedure. With a little thought and organization, you can direct your attorney to write a clear, concise Will that will help your executor distribute your belongings just as you desire. Consider the alternative: If you don't prescribe how your assets are to be divided after your death, the laws of your state will. This means your spouse may or may not receive the assets you have in mind, your children may or may not be taken care of by the guardian you've selected, your aging parents may or may not be cared for...well, you understand.

To make preparing your Will as simple as possible, we are pleased to offer a booklet, **"Gathering Information for Your Will."** This excellent publication not only tells you what information your attorney will need for your first meeting, but also provides you with the space to list it. We recommend this booklet for anyone who does not have a Will or anyone who is considering revising a Will.

To receive your free copy,

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## **GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED**

The Library of Michigan Foundation and the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection staff, in cooperation with the Michigan Library Association, will present a one-day genealogy workshop. Entitled "Genealogy and the Reference Librarian: Frontline Preparedness and Triage Techniques," the workshop will be held at the Library of Michigan on Friday, April 17, 1998.

The focus will be on the needs of staff members of small- and medium-sized libraries. Featured speakers include LM Genealogy Specialist Carole Callard and Michigan and Genealogy Special Collections Coordinator Randy Riley. The day-long session will instruct and advise librarians on how they can better serve patrons completing genealogical research.

Registration is limited to 60 participants. The cost will be \$50 for MLA members and \$65 for nonmembers. Fees include lunch and all handouts. For additional information, contact the Library of Michigan at 517-373-1300 or the Michigan Library Association at 517-694-6615.

## ***Would you like Access to reach you directly?***

If your library's copy of this newsletter does not always reach your desk or is delayed along the way, simply return this slip, giving us your name, title and address, and we'll send a copy directly to you. There is no cost for persons employed by a library, serving on a library board of directors or affiliated as a friend or volunteer at a library. Return to the address below.

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